accord has been worked out with secret accounts held by Indians with Department with regard to unveiling the secrecy of accounts in Swiss banks in connection with the accounts of Indians over there;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for delay and by when the accord is likely to be signed; and

(c) whether it is possible to unveil secret accounts held by Indians without signing accord with Swiss authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Swiss Federal Law known as Federal Act on International Mutual Assistance in Criminal matters (IMAC) provides for rendering of mutual assistance in criminal matters where acts with respect to which assistance is sought satisfy the test of dual criminality, and the State seeking assistance guarantees reciprocity to Swiss authorities. To ensure reciprocity, Government have decided that letters be exchanged between the two Governments. Our Mission in Berne has been suitably advised to make arrangements for the exchange of letters. The draft of letters to be exchanged is being examined by the Swiss Government whose final response is awaited. Unless the proposed letters are exchanged between the two Governments, it is not feasible for the Government of India to approach the Swiss Government for obtaining any information in this regard.

Swiss Bank Accounts of Indians

2555. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri N. D. Tiwari, the then Finance Minister said last year that without signing accord with Swiss authorities identity of illegal transaction in Swiss Banks by Indians can be established; and

(b) how far the negotiations with Swiss authorities have progressed for pursuing illegal accounts involving criminal offence by Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Swiss Federal Law known as Federal Act on International Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (IMAC) provides for rendering of mutual assistance in criminal matters where acts with respect to which assistance is sought satisfy the test of dual criminality, and the State seeking assistance guarantees reciprocity to Swiss authorities. To ensure reciprocity, Government have decided that letters be exchanged between the two Governments. Our Mission in Berne has been suitably advised to make arrangements for the exchange of letters. The draft of letters to be exchanged is being examined by the Swiss Government whose final response is awaited. Unless the proposed letters are exchanged between the two Governments, it is not feasible for the Government of India to approach the Swiss Government for obtaining any information in this regard.

FERA Violation Cases against Shri L. M. Thapar

2556. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest position with regard to the FERA violation cases against Shri L. M. Thapar; and

(b) whether Shri Thapar has deposited the money due against him; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Out of 31 show cause notices issue to Thapar group of companies, adjudication proceedings have been completed in respect of three show cause notices issued to M/s. Jg. Glass Industries (P) Ltd. resulting in imposition of a penalty aggregating to Rs. 25,05,000 on M/s. Jg. Glass Industries (P) Ltd. and Rs. 1,50,000 on Shri S. S. Lall, one of the Directors of the company. The adjudication proceedings are in progress in respect of the remaining 28 show cause notices.

(b) The amount of foreign exchange to be repatriated by Thapar group of companies, will be determined in the adjudication proceedings. However, as per information available an amount of Rs. 1.64 crores approximately has been repatriated by these companies.

Repatriation of surplus foreign exchange sought by some international organisations

2557. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some international organisations have requested Government for repatriation of surplus foreign exchange to their Headquarters;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Reserve Bank of India and other Government agencies have cleared the proposals for repatriation of surplus foreign exchange;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not allowing these organisations to repatriate surplus amount; and

(d) what are the names of the organisations which have requested for repatriation of foreign exchange during the last two years and what is the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) Unless types of the organisations and other details like the purpose for which remittance of foreign exchange was sought are indicated, it is not possible to furnish the required information.

Concessional bank loans for farmers and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes

2558. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to give loans at concessional rate of interest through banks to farmers and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to purchase three wheeler scooters, etc.;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from Handicapped Association regarding low interest loans through banks to handicapped persons for purchase of Maruti cars for handicapped persons; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken in view of their dire need and if no action has been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that there is no specific scheme to give loans at con-